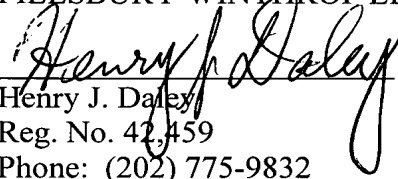


Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures plus the return of a copy of the herewith Form PTO-1449 with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609 along with an early Action on the merits of this application are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP LLP


Henry J. Daley
Reg. No. 42,459
Phone: (202) 775-9832

HJD:emg
1600 Tysons Blvd.
McLean, VA 22102
Tel. (703) 905.2000
Fax: (703) 905.2500